

years have laughed The ship whereon our hopes set sail Hath seldom met a friendly gale; The haven where our longings bide

is still upon the farther side. But, thank the Lord! time's wisdom turned its glow upon us when we learned

That have rooms bloom beneath the touch

or love that makes the little much. Christmas again; our babes at play Bring back the vanished years this day; Yes, glad am I that fate's decrees penied us gold to give us these And you, whose patient love hath lent under grace to banishment-The realm we missed hath naught so dear To me as your fair presence here. So do I bless the seasons urned, Wherein two hearts the lesson learned That bare rooms bloom beneath the touch of love that makes the little much.

-Frank Putnam, in Chicago Times-Her-



WAS the close of a day in the early part of December. The governor sat alone in his private office. His clerk had just left

The Christmas searon was a busy and responsible one with him, for he chose that time to investigate thoroughly the criminal recands of the state and pardon such prisopers as good conduct or extenuating circumstances placed within the pale of executive elemency.

If questioned as to his selection of the holiday season for the exercise of the "benign prerogative" he was wont to answer: "Oh, I may be helping to turn the tide in the soul of some Paul, and I have a fancy to do it when peace and good will are most likely to be at the flood; that is all."

Whether this were all, and it were not in response to some deeper sentiment those who knew him best alone could

To-night, as he looked at the piles of mail matter on his desk yet to be disposed of, he pushed back his chair with smothered groan and started to the deer, moved by a wild impulse to get outside and turn the key on it all.

An obstruction in his path caused him to stumble, and he saw a curious-looking bundle in brown paper, clumsily tied with a coarse twine string, lying on the floor at his feet.

He remembered the clerk's having mentioned a package from the state prison-this must be it-and pushed it impatiently to one side; but as he did so something in the coffin-shaped ontlines made him stoop and tear away a part of the cover.

He found, to his amazement, a violin, and appended to it a solled pencil-written note, evidently an appeal of some

Curiosity conquered fatigue. He had handled many and various petitions, but never one in shape like this.

Detaching the note from its fastenngs, he crossed the room to the window, and by the waning light of the winter's day deciphered the following

To the Guyner: They tel me thet yer and you listens to what they has to Ive ben Hear 20 years fer killin a mar I was a hot headed Boy uv 22 and the alled pap a Liar and sed things agin I couldn't noways stand thet and him down, he was a pale sickly ried tender foot and he never got I never ment to kill him but my hevy and sum mad thing inside uv ked me on, they never give me no v a Trial but jes put me in Hear fer his folks was rich and mine was pore midnt pay no lawyer. pap is gone and mam is old and they aint got noo look after em but Joseel. Joseel gal thet was goin to marry me. she home when they sent me Hear and look after the old Folks sames they was hern, ef I could git back to Joseel and the old folks and the mountins Ide er lif my han agin no man agen ceptin

help him so help me God. They tel me as how you kin make a Fid-lie talk til the childern puts down their aythings and follers yer. Guvner I sends on mine along uv this what I made when I was a Boy back in the mountins, the sames I koted my gal with and played fer mam and pap round the fire sunday evnins. Shes aged along with me but she kep her

Take her Guvner and set down by your-self in the still uv the evnin and let her-talk to you fer me. I aint afcerd shell ferit nuthin, the old Home on the side uv e mountin and mam and pap and Joseel editin thar and waitin these 20 years for Boy they wouldnt let go their holt uv quit luvin no matter what he did. No fergit nuthin. she's too much like m Wimmen shell be tellin you about. my like she knows things as well as I do. and cause shes ben lyin agin my Hart so and if she cant tell you nuthin Guyher talk to yer Wife. Its about nen shell tel you mostly. Wimmen d Sorrer. And Wimmen is quickern men derstan them things.

hat's all. its tuk me 3 weeks to rite letter. Goodby. God go with the old dole and help her tel it strate.

"ABNER HILL." When the governor turned away from be window there was a look on his face that few had ever seen there except

He lifted the violin carefully from he floor, tore away its wrappings and oked at it long and curiously. It was mighly made of native pine and maple him courage to look up. ad varnished with the homemade var-

Wringing his chair closer to the grate, the violin.

he placed the instrument in position. drew the bow, and there "in the still of the evening let her talk to him."

He was a mountain boy himself, and as the first soft notes fell on the air. plaintive and piercing like the cry of the whippoorwill in early spring, he felt the youth stir in him and heard again the far call of the hills.

He saw the log cabin high up against | tenderness the pitcons, expectant face, the side of the mountain, where the he said: laurel and the sumae grew and the ash made bright the scene with its dark the odor of pine from the forest, and | you!" the hirds touched the highest notes in their shrill treble.

his bold blue eyes and his waving bair, ery which his listener never forgot, he barefoot and scantily clad, searching | threw his arms around his liberator and for the earliest berries in summer and sobled like a heartbroken child, the first outs in the fall-free, joyous, innocent, happy.

thoughts" of a lad across the distant Nora C. Franklin, in Lippincott's Magacrest of the "Devil's Backbone" and | zine. wove with him mystic dramas amid the shades of the haunted ravine.

He sat with him at the feet of the Christmas the Festival of Childmountain lass and listened while he poured the crude poetry of his awakened soul into the sensitive instrument which alone could interpret the mys- heart even as a little child. Its ecstasies tery within him.

He stood beside him and watched the blazing pine knots roar up the cabin is in helping our neighbors to be happy chimney, while the old folks in the corner looked at each other across the boy them. There is no happiness comparwith that surreptitious tenderness of able to love, and the happiness grows the eyes which takes place in those greater as the love embraces more and grown gray, and sure of each other, of more our fellow-beings. That is the the more open demonstration.

He saw the whole 22 years of clean, humble living; the unaspiring pastoral with all the world. It is the child that life of the southern mountaineer, com- is the real democrat, for, as Emerson panioned of nature; simple, fearless, brave; scornful of the false, reverent of adults that gather around him, levels the true; tender to weakness, flerce to them to his own simplicity. The man wrong; and, alas! uncontrolled as the who has the child-heart is the man elements around him; crushing, in some whose interest in himself is most mad output of strength, the obstacle in his way, to stand afterwards in awful creatures. Though one may have felt recoil before the unknown potentialities of his own organism.

Full and swelling were the strains that issued from the throat of the violin as it told this idyl of the hills; passionate harmonies polsating like the over- which it is bestowed. That man who charged heart; long, tender, yearning awakens the Christmas spirit in the notes; sweet, caressing adantes; the hearts about him will find it subtly

Reaching a trembling hand out to his dumb friend as though for confidence, he whispered, hoarsely:

"Guyner, what did she tell you fer me? What did my old fiddle tell you?" The governor waited for a moment, perhaps to steady his voice; then, laying both hands on the shoulders of the other, his eyes reading with a father's

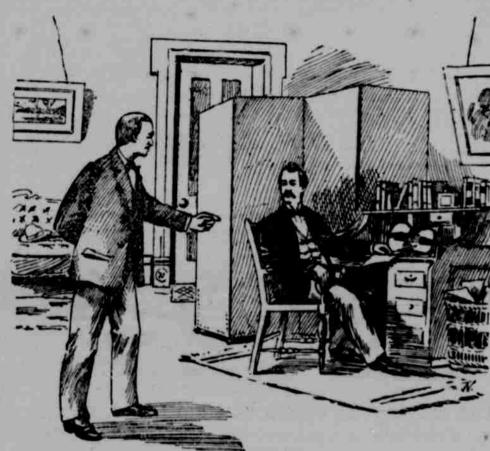
"Abner, she says-the old fiddle says -that you can go back to the mounfruit; where the breeze came laden with tains. And, my man, may God go with

The convict stood for a moment like one struck dumb, a womanish pallor He saw the boy with his sturdy limbs, overspreading his cheek; then, with a

And the governor was not ashamed to admit that something tightened in his He followed him in the "long, long throat and broke out at his eyes, too .-

ITS TRUE SPIRIT.

hood. Christmas is the festival of childhood. Whose would enjoy it truly must be in are in self-forgetfulness, in the betterment of others. Its highest celebration and thus sharing our happiness with best Christmas time in which one feels most acutely the actuality of kinship has it, he makes children of all the merged into interest for his fellowsin and shame and sorrow he may assuage them all in the promotion of the happiness of others. Love is the only anodyne, and giving it out it returns upon us as manifold as the objects upon very spirit of love in the guise of sound. stealing from them to his own, and



"WHAT DID MY OLD FIDDLE TELL YOU?"

But now the music changes. Youth's | will, almost unknowing, find bitter disglad symphony is lost in the wild major possessed by sweet, and warmth chords of passion. Note dashes against usurping cold therein. This world is note like hail against a pane. All the very fair and charity makes it all the tumult of the mountains, the forest, the fairer when its glow reminds us of "the roaring stream when storms rive the long, long night that death shall last." heavens, is sounded in that mad chro- Christmas feeling makes the most of matic ascending to its climax.

All of nature's after-pennance breathes in the sighing minor of the live, if but for a week, a day, a moment, descending scale. Surely that was a in full sympathy of helping with our human sob that rang through the room; fellows. If we can make others forget a fellow mortal's burst of sympathy. the past we may forget our own. If No, it was just the old fiddle, who we can but give to others a little of the "knew things 'cause she'd been lyin' so antidote of kindliness for the poison of long ag'in his heart."

vinely pure, so immeasurably sweet, the coldest ear must open to greet it.

In it are the prayers of mothers, the tears of wives, the sobs of little children-all of unlanguaged pain, all of unlanguaged love.

It is the echo of that song which beats forever against the throne of God, in tender, tireless cadence-the united voices of many women pleading for the

souls of men. The violin slips from the governor's hands and his head sinks upon his breast.

The old fiddle has "told her story straight."

When witnesses were found who corroborated the statements of the prisoner, and jail wardens certified to 20 years of exemplary behavior inside the prison walls, the governor sent for Abner Hill to be brought to his private

The day he expected him he placed the violin in a conspicuous position on the desk.

There was ushered into his presence a tall, angular man with the worn face and stooping shoulders of threescore years; hair scanty, muscles flabby, eyes dull; nothing to bespeak youth but the faint red that crept into his sunken cheek when the servant announced his name. A single stroke of sin and its after-writing on the brain had done the work of twice 20 years.

He stood inside the door with downcast eyes and nervous, fluttering hands. The governor called his name, and something in the kindly accents gave

Something else in the homely, hucave back the true viol tone, clear and into without loving gave him courage ountains, but the strings morous face that no man ever looked to speak, and his eye caught sight of

the now. It atones for the after-the deluge or the dark. It is real life to the present we shall find our own to-day And now from out her quivering less hopeless. And the future is formed strings she sends forth a melody so di- of the spirit that animates to-day. The real feeling of Christmas must blossom into acts .- Detroit Free Press.

> A Christmas Truth. If you the merriest Christmas would enjoy, If you the deepest happiness would feel, genuine follity without alloy, A happiness continuous and real,

Though paradoxical, I will agree, Tis yet a truth that no one can gainsay. The greater will your own enjoyment be greater will your own enjoyment be The more the happiness you give away.

-Boston Courier.

Out of Season. She does not interest us now, The woman with a past: We care not why, nor when nor how She got herself thus classed. But in the merry Christmas days, When all the world is pleasant, We're looking for, with anxious gaze, The woman with a present.

-Chicago Record. The Extent of It. How touching the practice of giving. The pledge of peace, good will! How touching the gift of the wife to her

He'll know when he gets the bill. -Detroit Journal. The Bachelor's Socks. I will not hang my stocking up-I really can't, consarn 'em! They wouldn't hold a present, and

It takes too long to darn 'em!
—Cleveland Plain Dealer. That Beautiful Star. Bethlehem's star lingers yet over child-hood, which it dignifies; womanhood, which it ennobles, and manhood, which it gladdens.

-Chiengo Standard. A Way He Had. "John, dear, you are growing handsomes every day." "It's a way I have, dear, just before Christmas."—Cleveland Plain Deal-

A Good Time to Begin. Ef yew still don't love yewer enermy now is the generous, heart-glad time uv yewr life tew begin dewin' so.—N. Y. Treeb.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL International Lesson for December

26, 1897-Review. [Arranged from Peloubet's Notes.] GOLDEN TEXT.-God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.-John

GENERAL REVIEW. It will be well to note the progress of the new kingdom from the very begluning, learning the chief facts and

marked eras of growth. The new kingdom began with the birth of Christ.

We note Chirst's preparatory work. the planting of the seed, the preparation of leaders, the exhibit of the Gospel in word and deed, the perfect example, the atonement, the fulfillment of prophecies, the resurrection, 120 disciples, all that are known at first.

Then Jesus returns again by the Holy Spirit, and begins the new work as a seed long planted springs from the ground and bursts into leaves and flowers.

Three thousand are converted in a

single day. The numbers grow, When the church is well established at Jerusalem the disciples are scattered abroad, the new religion spreads everywhere. It reaches the centers of civilization everywhere and becomes firmly established.

Persecution increases both numbers and power.

We may note the more prominent landmarks in this early history of the Christian church. (1) On Thursday, May 18, A. D. 30, occurred Christ's ascension, succeeding which the disciples continued in a ten days' prayer meeting. On the last day, Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was given. It was at this time that the 3,000 were added to the church. (2) Stephen, the first Christian martyr. laid down his life for the faith, and the persecution of the period scattered the disciples abroad, thus carrying the Gospel into Samaria and neighboring regions. (3) Paul was converted in the year 37, and made the apostle to the Gentiles. (4) Antioch became a new religious center. (5) Paul makes his first foreign missionary journey (A. D. 45-48). (6) The conference at Jerusalem (A. D. 50), when was settled the very grave question between the Jewish and Gentile Christians, whether the latter must not submit to the Jewish ceremonial law; this being amicably settled, the two lines of development were united into one. (7) Foreign missions are extended by Paul's second and third journeys, and the Gospel is preached in Greece. (8) Paul goes to Rome, but as a prisoner, and there preaches (A. D. 58-63). Jerusalem is destroyed seven years later, and thus the old dispensation is brought to a close and the new is fully launched.

The main facts being well grounded in the memory, there are certain lessons which should be learned from the history as a whole.

1. We see slow beginnings, but rapid growth when the hour comes.

2. We see the need of the Holy Spirit, 3. We see the methods by which the Gospel prevails.

4. We see God's marvelous guiding Providence, ever changing defeat into

5. We learn several lessons about forign missions and their effect on the home church.

6. We see the result and the crown.

OPTIONAL LESSON.

God's Love in the Gift of His Son-1 John 4:9-16. GOLDEN TEXT.-God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.-John

Introduction .- "Love" is the keyword in the passage we are about to study. Whatever else we may see in the coming of the Son of God into the world, we must miss the main point if we discern not in it the wonderful love of God.

ANALYSIS. 1. The Love of God. Ver. 9, 10. 2. Divine Indwelling. Ver. 11-13. 3. Christian Testimony to God's Love.

REFERENCES. (Ver. 9) The love of God-John 3:16. Only begotten-John 1:14,18. Might live

through him-5:11. (10) Propitiation-2:2. He loved us -ver. 19. (11) Ought also to love one another-

John 15:12. (12) No man hath seen God-Exod. 33:20. His love is perfected in us-

(13) Given us of His Spirit-3:24.

(14) Have seen and do testify-1:1-3. To be the Saviour-Matt. 1:21. (15) Whosoever shall confess-Rom

(16) God is love-ver. 8.

An Indian Tradition.

Among the Caddos and some other Indian tribes in Oklahoma, there is a tradition that there was once a tribe of cannibal Indians. The other Indians were not averse to being killed or even tortured, since they did those things themselves, but they strongly objected to being eaten. The cannibals would not change their dict, however, so the other tribes combined against them. At a time agreed upon, the cannibal village was surrounded, and every member of the tribe was destroyed, not even a babe was spared. This severe treatment was effectual, and no one has since heard of a cannibal Indian .--Golden Days.

Disappearing Birds.

The rookeries of the plumed birds in Florida are nearly deserted. The birds have been disturbed so often that they have left the old breeding places. Many species are nearly extinct-even the white egret is becoming scarce.-Chicago Chronicle.

Open Chinese Ports.

Twenty-two ports of China are oper to foreign residents, where Europeanare allowed to own land on which they live .-- N. Y. Sun.

ADDRESS TO DEMOCRATS.

An Urgent Appeal for Strong and United Action.

State Committee Chairman Parks M. Martin, of Indiana, Roasts Republicans and Encourages Democrats.

The following address, which has democrats all over the country.

history of the United States terminated in in a great many years in which the issues were squarely joined between the consolithe people. On the one hand were the enormous and practically inexhaustible reunder more than three decades of extreme protection, the railway and other corporaand money-lenders of two continents, the great army of speculators, jobbers and schemers of high and low degree who are interested in restoring a policy of lavish appropriations and reckless expenditure and all those who had reaped profits or hoped to do so through the prostitution of the functions of government to their service. From these sources a corruption fund was gathered of such magnitude that, although a golden stream was poured into every debatable state and congressional district in the United States during the campaign, an enormous unexpected balance remained in the bands of the republican national committee after the elec-

Venal Newspapers. "This gigantic combination of wealth and power was able to enlist in its service every venal newspaper in the United States. whatever its past political professions: every orator who was willing to sell his eloquence to monopoly for a price; every uckstering politician; every expert in election fraud; every trained manipulator of boodle throughout the republic. Against this sinister combination the historic democratic party went to the country with a candidate for the presidency whose purity leader in a contest with the hosts of monopoly, and with a declaration of principles which stirred the public conscience as it had not been stirred for generations. The democratic party relied solely upon the merit of its standard-bearer and the justice and local organizations honeycombed with treachery. A more heroic political battle against overwhelming odds has never been waged in this or any other country and the six million and a half of the popular votes and the 176 electoral votes expressed a great moral victory the magnitude of which is becoming more apparent every day.

"The principles for which the democrat'c enough to have carried the country overwhelmingly if the agencies of coercid corruption could have been eliminated from the contest. These principles have been growing stronger day by day and there is no question that they are accepted now by a great majority of the American people. The republican party returned to power last March under pledges to reestablish the equilibrium between national revenue and expenditure, to devise a safe and stable monetary system, and to restore prosperity to the masses of the people. Neither of these pledges has been kept.

The Tariff Measure.

"The first important official act of Prestdent McKinley was to convene congress in extraordinary session for the purpose enacting a tariff law, the ostensible ob-jects of which were to produce a revival of business throughout the country and to provide sufficient revenue to carry on the government, but whose real purpose was to enable the trusts to reimburse themselves for their co. ributions to the cor-ruption fund of 1856 by legalized spoilation of the people. This iniquitous law is accomplishing its real purpose. The sugar trust, the beef trust, and all the other great combinations which were allowed to dictate its terms are already realizing enormous profits from its operation. In order to swell the ill-gotten gains of these predabeen sacrificed and the cost of ilving has been increased to the people. The public debt statement issued December 1 shows that the excess of expenditures over receipts during the first five months of the present fiscal year was \$46,101,04, an average of over \$0,000,000 per month or at the rate of about \$110,000,000 per year.

"This appalling deficit measures the complete failure of the Dingley law as a revenue producer and will compel congress at an early day either to authorize another bend issue or to levy additional taxes or to reduce expenditures. Republican administrations never reduce expenditures. So that after nine months of republican rule the country finds itself face to face with new taxes or another issue of bonds or both. There has been no marked increase in the number of workingmen employed and no general advance of wages to com pensate for the augmented cost of living, and the Dingley bill already stands condemned before the country as the most flagrant and oppressive abuse of the tax-ing power of the government which has ever been perpetrated.

Commission's Failure. "The failure of the commission sent to Europe by President McKinley to secure

an agreement with England, France and Germany for international bimetallism forces the republican party to grapple with the greatest problem which has ever con-fronted it. One of three policies must be adopted: (1) The single gold standard must be definitely established, or (2) bi-metallism at the old ratio must be restored by independent national action, or (3) the present illogical, chaotic, dangerous and utterly insdequate currency system must be perpetuated. The adoption of the first alternative involving the change of all the outstanding interest-bearing securities of the government from coin to gold obligaflons, the virtual retirement of the greenbacks and treasury notes and the conces-sion of practically absolute control of the circulating medium to the national banks is urged upon congress by the administra-The execution of this programme would be a colossal crime against the people, and while it would rivet the chains of financial slavery upon them and enormously swell the tribute they are now compelled to pay to the money power, it would cause such a wave of popular indignation as would sweep the republican organization out of existence. The second policy to which the democratic party stands pledged. and which presents the only practical solu tion of the currercy question, will not, of course, be considered by the party in power. The only alternative, therefore, to the adoption of the administration programme is the do-nothing policy, which would involve a confession of utier impotence on the part of the republican party and would render its overthrow at the next general election as certain, if not as complete, as | into a couple of black bags. "What are if the policy just proclaimed by President | you doing?" he saked and she replied McKinley were to be earried out.

Inspiration for Democrats.

"The political situation is full of inspira-tion and encouragement to democrats everywhere, and at the same time it sug-

gests to them unceasing vigilance. publican party has not only failed to solve the currency question; it has not only failed to restore prosperity to the people; it has not only failed to negotiate an agreement for international bimetallism, but it has in other ways violated its piedges to the country. Its attitude with relation to Cuba is contrary to the explicit promise of the St. Louis platform and is in the last degree undemocratic, unrepublican, unpatriotic and un-American. The voice of humanity, the natural sympathy which every true American feels for a neighboring peo-ple struggling to throw off the yoke of sav-The following address, which has are despotism, and every consideration of been issued by Parks M. Martin, chair-enlightened self-interest demand the recman of the state central committee, to ognition of Cuban independence, a step the democracy of Indiana, will prove which the administration, for some mysinteresting and inspiring reading for bad faith which the administration has terious reason, refuses to take. The utter shown as to the enforcement of the civil "A little more than a year ago the most service law, a measure placed upon the remarkable presidential campaign in the statute books by the republican party, invites and will receive the reprobation of the success of the republican candidates, the country. Whatever differences of opin-This was the first presidential campaign ion may exist as to this law, all good citizens will agree that so long as it is a law it should be faithfully and impartially endated money power of the country, and forced. Its perversion by the appointees of President McKinley to the service of partlean greed is a distinct violation not only sources of the moneyed interests of the of the pledges of his party, but also of his Inited States and Europe, embracing the personal pledges to the country. At presnational banks, whose power had been built ent the law is enforced only when a demoup by federal legislation, the great manu-facturers, who had become strong and rich preferment, and it is evaded or violated as often as a republican can be thereby retained in or provided with a public posttions, the varied monopolies, trusts and tion. A party which deliberately violates combines of capital which had been built every day a law of the United States is up by a long course of governmental favor- dangerous to our peace and safety, and it'sm and class legislation, the bondholders approaches very nearly to the state of lawlessness and anarchy which it has sometimes charged upon its opponents. A Bankruptey Law.

"The only measure of a neral importance which the republican leaders now pro the country is the enactment of a bankruptcy law-a law presumably which will enable creditors to enforce into bankruptcy debtors whose inability to pay is due to republican tariff and currency systems-a fitting sequel to the protective tariff enacted last summer. The issues to be passed upon by the country at the congresional elections of 1898 are the same which were presented in 1896, accentuated and emphasized by the record of the republican party since its return to power. Let the democracy of Indiana rally their forces, lose up their ranks and march shoulder to shoulder in the contest for the principles of Jefferson and Jackson and Bryan. Men. who formerly acted with the democratic party, but who in 1896 withheld their support, are, in every voting precinct in the state, back in the ranks. They are disgusted with the record and policies of the epublican administration, and are ready and auxious to follow once more the good old flag of democracy. We welcome them of character, breadth of pairiotism, power the state can be handsomely redeemed next back. With united and determined efforts of elequence and devotion to the interests of the people marked him as their natural States senator assured and a largely increased democratic representation in the popular branch of congress returned. The democratic state committee appeals to and invites every citizen of Indiana, whatever his last political affiliations, who believes in these principles to cooperate carnestly of its cause. It fought the campaign through with an empty treasury and a crippled press and with many of its state vember in the endeavor to secure their tri-

The district conventions for the selection of members of the state central committee will be held in the various congressional districts on Tuesday, January II, 1898. The members of the new committee then chosen will meet at Indianapolis on Tuesday, January 18, for organization

"PARKS M. MARTIN, "Chairman Democratic State Committee.
"S. L. WALLACE,

Odd Women. Lovers and admirers of the fair sex and who is not comprised within that classification?-would find a book that might very well be written about women remarkable for some physical or mental peculiarities unusually interesting. As a sample of the curious stories that might be collected, let the reader mark and digest the following: There was Mrs. Dorothy Collier, whose death is recorded in the public journals for 1764. She was the largest woman of her time, weighing upward of 30 stone, and yet "was very active," as we are assured. Her coffin was two yards two inches in length, a yard and four inches broad, and two feet six inches deep, which proves that Mrs. Collier's husband could have had no reason to complain on the score of quantity. Then we have Mrs. Sarah Rawlins, who married at 19 years of age, and lived with her husband 27 years, during which tory combinations, the public revenues have period she had 14 children. Her second husband she also lived with 27 years, and the number of her children. grandchildren and great-grandchildren at her decease was no less than 329, "of whom," says the chronicler, in 1761. "182 are now living," and a very re-

spectable progeny, too .- N. Y. Ledger. A Social Row in Bath, 1769.

A fashionable concert was being given at Bath, and the hall was erammed, when a bevy of fair and noble ladies unexpectedly arrived. The manager ordered a bench to be set for their accommodation in front of the first row of seats. The occupants of the latter were not unnaturally displeased, and vigorously protested, but without effeet. From words they came to blows, and the eclipsed beauties fell tooth and nail on the intruders. A pitched battle ensued, at the end of which the field was thickly strewn with trophics of the fight-tatters of torn laces, ribbons and tippets, and other female finery. At a later hour detachments of the combatants were observed readjusting their attire, and recruiting their strength in adjoining chemists' and pastrycooks' shops .- Notes and Questions.

National Characterization.

A German and a Frenchman sat opposite each other at table-d'hote in a certain hotel in Switzerland. "You are a Frenchman, I suppose?" inquired the German at the commencement of the meal. "Yes," was the reply, "but how do you manage to find that out?" "Because you eat so much bread," said the German. There was a long pause. When the dinner was over the Frenchman, in turn, questioned his vis-a-vis. "You are a German, I presume?" "To be sure; but tell me, pray, how you made that discovery." "Because you ate so much of everything," was the dry retort .- London Figuro.

A Thoughtful Better Half.

A man married recently a young wife who takes everything quite literally. He came home and said be could take her to the theater, and presently be found her stuffing all sorts of eatables you doing?" be asked, and she replied, meckly: "Packing provisions, because I have just read in the paper that six